

New-York Daily Tribune

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1862.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
No notice can be taken of advertisements unless they are accompanied by the name and address of the advertiser, and unless the copy is received at the office of the Tribune not later than the day preceding the day on which it is to be published. Advertisements for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE, New-York."

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

Our advices from Gen. Burnside are to last evening. All was quiet, save a few shots fired on our front to disperse Rebel gatherings on the plain opposite Burnside's position. The official return of Union losses reduces the supposed aggregate below 1,400 killed and 8,000 wounded; many of the latter are very slightly hurt. We lost about 800 prisoners and took about the same number.

Dispatches which reached us after our paper of yesterday morning had gone to press, state that the Rebels admit a loss of 2,500 at Fredericksburg, among them Gen. Gregg and Cobb, and a large number of field officers. News (Rebel) from Goldsboro, says that their forces were obliged to retire from Kinston and permit the Unionists to occupy the town. It has been heretofore reported that our forces were defeated. The trace for the burial of the dead at Fredericksburg, ended on Wednesday night; more than a thousand were buried on the field. We add further lists of killed and wounded. Last night we received, by way of Fort Monroe, confirmation of the capture of Kinston. Gen. Foster took 500 prisoners and 11 pieces of cannon.

Dispatches from Nashville say that advices there received, state that Gen. Dodge's Union cavalry were fighting Forrest's Rebel cavalry all day on Thursday, near Corinth, Miss. A great many wild rumors concerning Bragg, Morgan, Kirby, Smith and other Rebel leaders, are in circulation.

In Senate yesterday a joint resolution to pay mileage for the present session was offered. It was resolved to continue the publication of the Naval Register. A resolution asking for information about the Buell Court-Martial was laid over. Memorials were presented in favor of authorizing letters-of-marque, with a view to the capture of the Alabama. Correspondence about telegraphic communication with Asia was called for. Bills were introduced to further the emancipation of slaves in Missouri, and to provide for the construction of roads and telegraphs in Kansas. A brief discussion ensued, when Mr. Powell's resolution in regard to arbitrary arrests, after which the Bankruptcy act was called upon and some verbal amendments were made, without vote upon it, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, information was asked about the return of negroes (recaptured slaves) to Africa. A resolution was offered instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to report a bill by which soldiers who have been rendered unfit by wounds and other disabilities, may be at once discharged from service, and that all soldiers at the military hospitals in duty be returned to their respective regiments; also, establishing a Board of Medical Officers to examine into such cases. A resolution contemplating improvements in the Cavalry Camp was adopted. The Senate bill to facilitate the discharge of disabled soldiers was pushed without amendment. The certificate of the election of Benj. F. Flanders, as a member of Congress from the 1st District of Louisiana was read. Mr. Vallandigham objected to having the member sworn in, and the papers were referred. Mr. Mallory proposed a resolution to adjourn from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6, but his consideration was deferred. The Ways and Means Committee were instructed to report on the expediency of creating an Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the Pacific States. Mr. Delplaine wanted a Special Committee to inquire into the Battle of Fredericksburg; but his resolution was objected to. Mr. McKnight wanted a bill to revise and define the duties of Quartermaster-General. The Secretary of the Navy was requested to communicate all facts about prize cases. The Invalid Pension bill was adopted. Mr. Stephens made an explanation as to the Revenue bill recently introduced by him, saying it was his own act without consultation with the Committee of Ways and Means or with the Secretary of the Treasury. He was opposed to the latter's financial scheme. The House then went into Committee, and Mr. Crisfield made a political speech. Adjourned to Monday.

By the arrival of the Scotia from Liverpool, Dec. 6, via Queenstown, Dec. 8, we have one week later news from Europe. The English papers publish a correspondence between Mr. Gladstone and Professor Francis W. Newman on the war. Mr. Gladstone protests against being classed among the sympathizers with the South, but Mr. Newman flows, in his reply, conclusively, that the whole tenor of the late speech of Mr. Gladstone was an encouragement to the Rebellion, whose wicked character, Mr. Newman portrays in a few vigorous, but just words. The distress among the working classes of France is increasing to an alarming degree, one department alone, having about 150,000 destitute workmen. The French Government has concluded contracts for the supply in Mexico for two years. An article in the French *Moniteur*, stating that French ships of war have been received with "lively satisfaction" in New-Orleans, was attracting considerable attention. Rattazzi, finding a majority of the Italian Parliament opposed to his policy, has resigned and a new ministry was in the course of formation. The election of a new King of Greece has commenced, and the prospects were, that Prince Alfred would be elected by an overwhelming majority.

The Board of Aldermen last evening concurred with the Committee in the adoption of an ordinance "For the better protection of the streets of New-York," authorizing the Croton Board to remove all obstructions from the streets, replace the pavements, and appropriate \$50,000 to defray the expenses. Mr. Beale's resolution placing the Central Park in the hands of the Street Commissioner was laid over for the present, the Committee, in the meantime, to go on with their investigation.

In the Board of Councilmen yesterday, the proposition to pay \$10,000 to the 69th Regiment in Gen. Corcoran's Brigade came up for concurrence. A protest was received from acting Col. Bagley of the original 69th Regiment, against the payment of the money to the 69th Regiment in Corcoran's Brigade, on the ground that it was not the legally organized regiment of that name. The subject was referred to a Special Committee.

A fatal accident occurred on the New-York and Erie Railroad last evening, which resulted in the death of the fireman, Mr. Calhoun, and the fatal injury of his father, the engineer of the train from Buffalo, due in Jersey City at 8 1/2 o'clock. The passengers in the train, numbering about 60 persons, had a narrow escape from an awful disaster.

By way of San Francisco we have news from Japan to the 10th ult. The country was quiet. The first salute ever given to a foreign minister was given to the United States Minister on the 7th of November. The Japanese Government have ordered

two steam sloops of war and one gunboat, to be built in the United States, to form the nucleus of a regular navy.

The mails for Europe, by the steamships Hannan and Kangaroo, will close this morning at 10 1/2 o'clock. The improved feeling in the share market continued yesterday, and there was general advance of 1/4 to 1/2 cent. The improvement was most marked in the Western list. Government securities were more active but heavy, especially seven-thirties, under a rumor that the Secretary would ask for a further issue of one hundred millions. At the Second Board the market was quite active, with a further advance in most descriptions in the share list. Governments were dull and weak. At the Third Board there was a large amount of transactions, at some concession on the highest quotations of the day. The market for sterling is weaker, and good bills have sold at 14 1/2. Freight without change. In money matters there was no change. The supply on call continues abundant at 5/16 to 3/4 cent on good collaterals. Gold has not been active, and the quotation has been steady in the neighborhood of 137 1/2. Demand Notes are dull at 127 1/2 to 128 1/2. The seven-thirties sold down to 102 1/2 on the rumor of further issues.

The news this morning bears a more cheerful aspect. Gen. Foster has performed a gallant action in the capture of Kinston, N. C., taking 500 prisoners and 11 pieces of artillery. The details are not yet received, but Kinston is an important point on the Neuse, about half way between Newbern and Goldsboro'. Goldsboro' is a still more important point, being a railroad nucleus on the roads running south from Richmond. Toward this Gen. Foster is evidently making his way. From Gen. Burnside's army, we hear that the loss has been much exaggerated, the killed numbering less than 1,400 and the wounded about 8,000, large numbers of whom are but slightly hurt. All this should dispel something of the gloom that has settled upon us for the last few days, and we trust ere many days more to announce still further cheering intelligence, of which, at this moment, it would be premature to speak more definitely.

We are informed by letter from Washington that Mr. Seward has tendered his resignation as Secretary of State. Our informant speaks positively. He adds that the resignation was suddenly determined upon, and will probably be accepted.

THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

A General Meeting of our Citizens, to express the opinion of this community with regard to the Conduct of the War, is called to assemble at Cooper Institute this evening. The names signed to this call are of the highest respectability, though among them are those of citizens whose hostility to the War for the Union—to say war for the purpose of maintaining its territorial integrity and vindicating the constitutional authority of its Government—has long been decided and unswerving. But it is right that these, among others, should be present, so that, if what is resolved at this meeting is to go forth as the voice of New-York, it shall be, on every point covered, the voice at least of a great majority of her citizens. To this end, let none be deemed excluded, but let there be a free and fair consultation, and let nothing be set forth as the voice of New-York which does not command the very general assent of her citizens.

"These are times that try men's souls." The true and the sham patriot, the lover of his country and the venal self-seeker, the dunces and the cowards, the sterling and the base, however the one may be belied and the other belidened, will each exhibit his true character in such a crisis. The devotees of Slavery, the sympathizers with Rebellion, are all at work, devising their harvest. How far this meeting may be wiled into subservience to their unacknowledged ends, the record of its proceedings will in due time disclose. That the purpose of many of the signers for this meeting are pure and patriotic, none who know them will doubt.

Government by mass meetings has not yet been reduced to a science, and the legitimate scope and proper limitation of their sphere are as yet but vaguely defined. Thus far, we have not heard it claimed that they can solely call for the deposition of a President, though it is understood that the composition of Cabinets and management of campaigns is within their province. Still, it is manifest that they cannot act infallibly in ignorance of the most material facts. Who among those who will figure at the meeting to-night will absolutely know under what orders Gen. Burnside acted last Saturday, and on whose responsibility they were given? We see and hear a great deal confidently asserted with regard to those orders, but who knows, and who does he know? After the War Committee shall have reported on the Fredericksburg affair to the Senate, we shall probably all be wiser—that is, if we look carefully to the established facts rather than be content with irresponsible assertions. But it is not well to be hurling denunciations right and left in ignorance of those facts.

A careful study of the journals that are striving to outdo each other in the work of exciting and intensifying distrust of the Administration and its War management, does not tend to increase our confidence in the style of Government to which we are rapidly lending. One of these journals insists that the Army of the Potomac shall go into Winter quarters where it now is—that it can do nothing else. Another very pertinently suggests that this would enable Lee to dispatch Fifty Thousand or so of his soldiers to the aid of Johnston, Bragg, & Co., in the South-West, and thus add them to overwhelm our armies in that quarter. One protests against all distant expeditions and efforts, insisting that our efforts should be concentrated on Virginia, though this journal happens to be the very one in which the Anaconda strategy was first developed and commended to an admiring world. Yet the same authority that calls for concentration of our forces in Virginia observes that our efforts seem to be successful in direct proportion to their remoteness from Washington—which would make Texas a capital arena for us. We neither approve nor condemn any of

these suggestions, any more than we do the clamor for a reconstituted Cabinet, and more especially exclusion from power of Secretary Stanton and Gen. Halleck. What we say is—Let the whole truth come out, and then let the great axe fall precisely where it ought. There seem to have been grave errors committed—let the responsibility rest where it ought, and let any proved incapacity, imbecility, or neglect be visited as it deserves. "Strike, but hear!"

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF FRANCE.

Every new arrival from Europe is bringing us new proofs that the French Emperor—all the official declarations notwithstanding—has the intention of permanently extending his influence on the American Continent. Undaunted by the growing unpopularity of the Mexican expedition, he has concluded contracts for the supply of the French army in Mexico for two years. The Government of Mexico has again and again offered to satisfy all the just demands of France, but the Emperor, with overbearing haughtiness, refuses to pay the least regard to these offers, and makes all his preparations for a prolonged occupation of the country. He already treats it as a conquered province, and has ordered two new streets of Paris to be called *Rue de Mexico* and *Rue de Puebla*. His attitude with regard to our own country is likewise anything but friendly. The official organ of the Government, the *Moniteur*, refers to the presence of three French ships of war at New-Orleans in a manner well calculated to make its readers believe that the population of New-Orleans would look with gratification upon an intervention of France. Whatever an insertion of such a paragraph in the official paper may mean, it certainly shows anything but friendly sentiments toward us. We have the greater reasons to watch the further movements of Napoleon with distrustful attention, because the increasing cotton famine begins to threaten him with serious dangers. According to an address, signed by the principal manufacturers and merchants, the single department of the Lower Seine, which in 1850 had a population of 769,450 inhabitants, has now 100,000 destitute workmen and will soon have 150,000, and the same melancholy accounts are given from every quarter, town and village, as well as from the rural districts. Destitution among the workmen in France generally forebodes a revolution; and although, according to all accounts, the expedition against Mexico has, contrary to the expectation of the Emperor, failed to enlist the sympathies of the French people, another attempt to raise the national pride and to divert attention from domestic evils is by no means impossible. Still, however, as long as other European Powers, and in particular England and Russia, refuse to join France in her projects of interference, the danger threatening us from a French invasion is by no means so great as many over-timid persons fear. Just at present the attention of Louis Napoleon is more than ever claimed by the increasing complications of European affairs. There are ominous and alarming signs that the tide of the almost unparalleled luck of Napoleon is beginning to ebb; that the star of the Empire, hitherto so brilliant, may suddenly set. Two European news which we received yesterday by the Scotia embrace two serious rebuffs, with which Louis Napoleon's foreign policy has, of late, met in Europe. The National Parliament of Italy has so strongly expressed its disapprobation of the policy of Rattazzi, the blind partisan of France, and its devotion to the national programme of the evacuation of Rome by the French and her incorporation with the Italian Kingdom, as to force the resignation of the Ministry. Though anxiously intent upon avoiding any collision with France, the great majority of the representatives of the Italian people are desirous to record their determination—France willing or not willing—to demand in the name of the Italian people Rome as their capital, and to take it whenever the opportune moment arrives. Either retreat from his present policy or war, is the alternative which the withdrawal of Rattazzi leaves for Napoleon.

The defeat of the French policy in the Greek question is equally significant. We did not need the angry and jealous remarks of the official press of France on the elevation of Prince Alfred to the throne of Greece, in order to know how deeply such an event would wound the national feelings of France. Of course, French diplomacy has used every means to induce the Greeks to make another choice; but it has received a total defeat. We learn that the election of a king had begun, and that Prince Alfred was receiving an almost unanimous vote. The wishes of France have not been heeded, and the prestige of her name is waning. Like few other princes, Louis Napoleon has always endeavored to pander to the national pride of his people. Reverse in Europe may stimulate him to recover the lost glory in America. Mexico serves us as an example, as to how he treats nations which consider unable to defend their national honor. Nothing but our own strength and our courage will ever be able to preserve us from a similar fate.

NEVER DESPAIR.

Moral courage, we fear, is not our chief national characteristic. Indeed, when we remember how, for the last quarter of a century, we have been trained into submission to slaveholding mastership, aided by Northern beachmen who, for many promises and some small share of political power, have been always ready to corrupt and coerce public opinion to a base subserviency, the wonder rather is that we have so much national manliness left. But while there have been counter influences at work which instilled into us the courage first, to mark a limit to slaveholding action, and then to resist, with the determination and persistence that the nation has shown for the past two years, a slaveholding revolt, the old servile spirit is still alive and active, and too frequently appealed to with success by those who are stal at heart the servants of their Southern masters. With such men it matters not that their abject devotion is spurned by those to whom it is offered.

The mere hope that they may yet return to the bounty of crumbs they once enjoyed is enough for them. How can we wonder that slaves, degenerated by centuries of servitude, do not rise in insurrection against their masters now that the opportunity is afforded them, when Northern white men are yet incapable of asserting their independence of political servitude? Such, however, is the fact, and we must deal with it as it is. We may regret it, and combat it, but after all it must be left, for the most part, to the stern logic of events which are fighting for us with tremendous power, and are sure to bring us to a happy issue at last.

There is no reason for surprise, therefore, and less of alarm, that the reverse our arms has sustained at Fredericksburg is taken advantage of for renewed attacks upon the Government, renewed attempts to create popular distrust, and to arouse impatience with the progress of the war. Let the timid note carefully whence these onslaughts, for the most part, come, and compare the course of those most active in them now with the part they have played on previous occasions. We yield to none in our sorrow and mortification at the events of the past week, but we have not, therefore, any respect to show for the howl that is going on around us in certain journals and among a certain class of citizens. We understand precisely what it means. It is not the misfortunes of their country that they are mourning over, but they are seizing upon the occasion of those misfortunes to plunge her still deeper into difficulty, to embarrass her with new doubts and new obstacles in the struggle she is making for existence. It is no new part for them to play. They have played it all along. It is not Burnside's defeat that they are in mourning for, for defeat of the Union arms, whether on the Peninsula or elsewhere, has never troubled them. Their eyes that overflow with tears for men fallen in battle were dry when many tens of thousands were wasted away with disease in pestiferous swamps, and died in inactivity. They sympathize to the full with the alarm the Rebels feel—witness the Richmond papers—at the new aspect the war has assumed. They dread, as their masters dread, this new and threatening activity. They fear, as their masters fear, the advent of the New Year, with its new policy, that will, if rightly pushed, arouse a new element against the Southern revolt. They hope by delay to tide over this crisis in the Rebellion. They know no better way than to embarrass the Government by new political complications, and this they hope to do by arousing a just popular alarm at what, great as it is, is a calamity, is, at the worst, the fortune of war—a lost battle—and is not irretrievable.

Let the public not be deceived or led away by this clamor. It is insincere and mischievous, and is nothing less than incivism. We have outlived, passed over, and forgotten, as practical events, other calamities. We shall outlive and get over this. We ought to have the intelligence to put under our feet these appeals to popular timidity, the only purpose of which is to lead the country into new discussions and difficulties. We need all the moral and physical courage we can muster to face our actual troubles, without creating new. With nearly a million of men in the field, with unlimited resources, with a people who have done all that ours has done, with a courage and energy that have never slackened in the trials of the two years past, we have no cause for despondency, much less for despair. Whether the Government is the best we might have is not the question; it is the best we have got, and we know precisely what it is. It is no time now to "swap horses." Let us stand by the Government, and stand by ourselves, and traitors everywhere will yet be made to bite the dust.

NEW-ENGLAND SOLDIERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

Private charities for the benefit of our soldiers have developed all over the country into organized benevolent societies. The public thankfully recognizes the good which they have done and are doing, yet the extent of their operations is perhaps not generally appreciated. At a moment like this, when their usefulness is greatest, it is especially desirable that their character should be understood. From a report prepared by Col. Frank E. Howe, the Superintendent of the New-England Association, one of the best known and most useful of these societies, we collect some account of its history and system.

The purposes of the Association were originally declared to be "To aid and care for all sick and wounded soldiers passing through the City of New-York on their way to or from the war." It was established by sons of New-England resident in New-York, and has been in operation since the eighth day of April last, occupying all but the ground floor of the building No. 134 Broadway. The first floor is used as a reception and baggage room, and for an office, and serves also at night as a sleeping room. The second story contains the sick ward, with the medical store-rooms and offices. The third is a dormitory containing eighty-six beds. The fourth includes the dining hall, kitchen, pantries and laundry. All the floors are amply supplied with water, fire and gas. Nothing is wanting to make it a comfortable home for the soldier.

At the opening of the rooms, and ever since, the supplies necessary for furnishing them were liberally contributed from private sources. At present, however, in consequence of the battles and hardships of the Fall and Winter campaigns, and the great increase in the number of applicants for assistance, the Association is in immediate want of clothing and undergarments, supplies of which, Col. Howe says, cannot be too abundant. As an illustration of the draft on its stores, it may be stated that in a single week the Association has cleaned, dyed, and completely clothed more than fifteen hundred Union prisoners released from Rebel prisons. Nearly every soldier who is released at the rooms is in want of some article of clothing, and the demands are incessant.

From the beginning of its work down to the 1st of December, the Association has received,

registered, entertained, and clothed 7,796 sick, wounded, or disabled soldiers. Probably 3,000 more who were not registered have been relieved. Its charity is not confined to New-England. More of the whole number were from New-York than from any other States but Massachusetts and Maine; and it is believed that this Association alone, if properly sustained by the citizens of New-York, will be able to provide for all soldiers in need of its assistance.

No limit has been placed to the period during which soldiers are permitted to remain at the rooms. Some receive only a single meal or a night's lodging, while others have been cared for through weeks of illness and convalescence. The soldier's necessities, and the ability of the Association to relieve him, are the only measure of its charity.

The Association has also undertaken to supply information concerning the soldiers in Government hospitals. Application became so frequent that a system of hospital visitation was finally established under charge of Mr. Frank F. Holbrook, who daily ascertains and records the name, company, regiment, residence, and condition of every soldier in the Government hospitals in and near New-York. This register now comprises 3,301 names. It is constantly consulted, and transcripts are sent to the authorities of the States to which the men belong.

In all the ways above mentioned the Association has relieved 14,748 sick and wounded soldiers from twenty-six States of the Union and the District of Columbia.

Another means of service has been in the superintendence of the transit of soldiers through the city, the railways and other routes of travel to the Eastern States having arranged with the Association to convey soldiers bearing their certificate, at Government rates of transportation. And beside the saving to the discharged soldiers thus effected, those who are unable to travel alone are accompanied and cared for by the nurses of the Association till deposited safely at home.

The Association has been, moreover, a source of information, practical advice, and assistance to soldiers and their friends; after disposing of hundreds of cases in a day without expense to its applicants. It has received money on temporary deposit for the soldiers in its care, to the amount of one hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars. It has facilitated communications between soldiers and their friends, supplying stationery, and paying postage on a correspondence amounting sometimes to nearly two hundred letters a day. It has collected and forwarded the pay of discharged soldiers, who were thus saved both the expense of delay in the city and the often extortionate charges of claim and pay agents. In a word, whatever assistance or relief or service or information is needed by soldiers or their friends the Association undertakes to supply, doing its work thoroughly, practically, kindly, standing to each soldier in the place of his most faithful friend and combining the resources of more than the friends of all.

Auxiliary Associations and Committees have shared in the labors of the Society. One of twenty-eight members was formed to discharge the duties of night-watching with invalid soldiers, and its members have devoted themselves with unusual fidelity and kindness to their wearisome task. The "Women's Auxiliary Committee," by its counsel and zealous care in the internal affairs of the Association, has rendered its efforts economical and discriminating. It has also supplied nurses for the soldiers in the day time, and the patient, unwearied attention, the gentle charities and sympathies which have relieved and soothed the sufferers under their care have been such as only women can bestow.

It is impossible to value too highly a charity so wise and generous as this. Its best utility is written in the grateful memories of the soldiers whose want it has supplied, and of their friends whose anxiety it has relieved. Puritan New-England organized it; but its benevolence is as broad as the continent. Its officers and managers have given it their most zealous and intelligent services. The work they have already accomplished is the best guaranty of future success, and the best title to public confidence and support.

THE THOMPSON CORRESPONDENCE.

We lay before our readers this morning several of the letters of the Jacob Thompson correspondence, found on his plantation at Oxford, Miss., a few days since. We take no liberties with them, further than their publication as spoils of war, leaving their writers to speak precisely as they wrote, the reader to make his own capitals and italics. This last, we fancy, will be done with much freedom and here and there with some indignation.

Some of the writers are hitherto unknown to fame; others, if not famous, are notorious, and are now helped on to the road to infamy. Mr. McMahon, for instance, is not unknown in this city. During the Mayorality of Mr. Fernando Wood he was his confidential secretary, and perhaps for that reason, if for no other, his letter will be read with interest. It gives a little looking into the secession wire-working of this city, especially as to the origin of secession hand-bills where secessionists of this city get their pay. Mr. Kennedy's letter—the Superintendent of the Census—will also attract attention, and possibly excite some discussion as to the propriety of an officer of the Government sending information to a leading Rebel of the measures about to be taken to relieve Fort Sumter, and of the sailing of a squadron for the Gulf. The letter of Mr. Thompson himself to an "old Pub. Man," at least does credit to the heart of the writer for its bitterness, whatever may be thought of its character as a correspondence. Mr. Brown, who is so saturated with the smoothness of the running of the "machine," is also somewhat known in this city, having contributed from the office of the *Journal of Commerce* into a full-blown secessionist. Others of the writers are of less note, but they altogether make up a chapter of remarkably instructive and entertaining reading.

THE DAY AT HAND.
In other times, it would seem odd to read in parallel columns of the same journal, first of the Emancipation policy as now become utterly preposterous and fantastic—the faintest possible shadow of a scarecrow—and secondly, the most anxious tremors exhibited at the prospect of the President's promised first-of-January Proclamation of Freedom. The Border-State Members of Congress, too (that is, so many of them as are not Emancipationists), we note, have made a call on the President in full platoon, to urge and entreat him not to issue that Proclamation. If "the Pope's bull against the comet" caused such trepidation and mortal shiver on the part of that long-tailed aerial wanderer, how could the Pope have been dissuaded or diverted from giving him a second dose of the same physic?

OUR HEROES.

The Rebel officers who witnessed the efforts of our Volunteers on that fatal field of Fredericksburg are enthusiastic in their commendation of the daring wherewith they scaled the slippery steeps, charging bayonet against strong lines of defenses, held by deadly marksmen, under the murderous fire of enfilading batteries, vomiting grape and shell. Never was death more nobly laughed to scorn—never did patriots shed their blood more lavishly in defense of their country's integrity and perpetuity. And, though their efforts were not crowned with success because "some one had blundered," it would be impeaching the beneficence of God to doubt that those willing sacrifices were accepted, and that we shall yet realize that they were not made in vain.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Committee of Ways and Means and the Financial Measure.

Sec'y Chase Requested to Prepare It.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

Failure of the Border-State Interposition.

The Question of Appointing Military Governors.

THE NUMBER WOUNDED AT FREDERICKSBURG.

Gen. Porter's Dispatches to be Used in his Case.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 19, 1862.

THE FINANCIAL MEASURE.

The Committee of Ways and Means to-day addressed a note to Secretary Chase urging him to propose a scheme of finance, and send it in to them in the form of a bill.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

There is no doubt that the Committee representing the Border-State caucus, which waited upon the President yesterday for the purpose of urging him to withhold his New-Year's Proclamation of Freedom, met with no encouragement whatsoever. The issuance of that Proclamation on the appointed day is believed to be certain.

EMANCIPATION IN MISSOURI.

Senator Henderson's bill to encourage emancipation in Missouri provides that, upon satisfactory proof that the State has, within eighteen months after the passage of this act, made legal provision for the immediate or gradual emancipation of her slaves, thirty-year six per cent bonds to the amount of \$20,000,000 shall be paid as compensation, such bonds not to be delivered unless the Missouri Legislature shall provide for the extinction of Slavery on or before July 4, 1868.

If the law of Emancipation provide for the manumission of all slaves on or before July 4, 1866, the amount is to be paid at once. If at a later date, they shall be delivered in four equal installments; the last at the time when it goes into effect. If the State shall re-establish Slavery, after receiving the bonds or any part of them, she shall be bound to the United States in the whole sum, principal and interest.

THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

The course heretofore of the Committee on Elections tends to the opinion that it will report against the right of R. T. Flanders, who presented his credentials as Representative from the Second District of Louisiana to-day to a seat. In connection with his claims, the question of the validity of the President's appointments of Military Governors, which was discussed in the Senate at the last session, will probably be brought before the House.

THE WOUNDED AT FREDERICKSBURG.

The exact number of wounded at Fredericksburg, exclusive of killed and missing, is 8,300.

GEN. PORTER'S DISPATCHES.

All the dispatches from Fitz John Porter to Gen. Burnside and McClellan are to be introduced in evidence as part of Porter's case.

ARRIVAL OF WOUNDED.

About 1,200 wounded arrived last evening. Four hundred are to be sent by rail to Chester, Pa., and 800 to New-York to-morrow.

FROM CALIFORNIA AND JAPAN.

The *Ross Taylor's* Passengers Forwarded.

All Quiet in Japan—The American Minister Satisfied—Stoops of War and a Gambant Ordered Built in the United States—Japan to have a Steam Navy.

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, Dec. 19, 1862.

The steamship *Herrmann* has been chartered to take the Messrs Taylor's passengers to Panama, and

to return.

Dispatch from Kanagawa, Japan, to the 10th of November, received. A private letter says all quiet in that country. On the 7th the authorities notified the American Minister with seventeen guns, and the first regular salute ever given by the Japanese to any foreign Minister.

The Japanese have ordered two steam sloops of war and one gunboat, mounting in all sixty-four guns, constructed in the United States, but the guns constructed in a single factory having been ordered, ship *Herrmann* for long kept carrying \$100,000 in treasure.

Money is abundant at the usual rate. Atlantic Currency premium 100 to 1. Gold 135 1/2 per cent premium. Sterling Exchange 100 to 1. Legal tenders, 100 to 1.

THE WAR OF THE TRANSLATIONS.—A very splendid sketch as to the merits of the British and American translations of *Les Misérables*, will be found in our advertising columns this morning. The bound in our advertising columns this morning, the number of the English language are illustrated by quaint specimens; those of the French by an elegant letter from a classmate of Charles Hugo.